

Inquiries of the Ministry

have something to say about the other subject later. I should like to ask the right hon. gentleman whether he is still planning to attend the prime ministers' conference and, if so, whether he is giving consideration to supporting mandatory sanctions against Rhodesia under the United Nations charter.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Whether I am able to attend this conference will depend on developments in the house and in the country in connection with the railway situation. I would regret very much, of course, if I were not able to go. In the circumstances I do not think I should say anything about what I might do if I were able to go, but before the conference opens there would be, I hope, an opportunity on orders of the day or on motions for whoever represents Canada to make a short statement.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I realize that the Prime Minister is most anxious to attend, and it is very desirable that he should be able to attend the prime ministers' conference. I want to say to the right hon. gentleman that anything we can do to make it possible for him to be there for a couple of days will be done; because, I suggest, his presence there is very necessary at a time when the future of the commonwealth might well be in jeopardy unless, in the collective wisdom of the prime ministers, a consensus is arrived at.

Mr. Pearson: I can only say I appreciate very much the attitude taken by the right hon. gentleman. I still hope it will be possible for me to attend this conference, even if for only a couple of days. His attitude, expressed this afternoon, will make this easier.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**VIET NAM—RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. PRESIDENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

The right hon. Prime Minister had a recent meeting with the President of the United States in New Brunswick. Did any agreement come out of that meeting or those talks, with regard to Viet Nam or American involvement in Viet Nam or was there any discussion about inflation, which seems to be taking a permanent hold?

[Mr. Lewis.]

[English]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there was no occasion to reach any particular understanding at these meetings in regard to our position on Viet Nam and the United States position, because our position is well known to the United States and I think we understand their position. We did discuss many other subjects within the limited time available, some two and one-half hours, and one of these was inflationary dangers and pressures in both countries; because this is more than a national problem.

NATURAL GAS**ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS FOR ACCESS TO U.S. MARKETS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, who is the minister designate of energy and national resources. Has the government any alternative proposals to gain access to the United States markets that are denied to Canadian gas producers as a result of the government's decision not to allow the proposed southern route pipe line to be built? Further, has the government any proposals to compensate for the additional cost of delivering gas to central Canada?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Mr. Speaker, it will not be up to the government but up to Trans-Canada to come forward with alternative proposals.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): As a supplementary question, has the minister received from the premier of Alberta an objection to the decision of the cabinet to reject the decision of the National Energy Board on this matter?

Mr. Pepin: Not personally, Mr. Speaker.

FINANCE**REPORTED OFFER OF LOW COST LOAN FOR B.C. BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance and ask whether he can confirm, or otherwise, that an offer has been made of a long term loan at low interest rates for the construction of an additional bridge over Burrard Inlet in Vancouver. If so, has